

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MARINA MADRID

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Conducted by:

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Dodson: Now, I wonder if you would state your full name and tell us where you were born and when did you arrive in the Valley if you were not born in the Valley?

Madrid: My name is Marina Madrid. I was born in North Hollywood, California at Kaiser Hospital in 1968 on November the 21st. I lived in the Valley all my life.

Dodson: Then, you are one of our daughters of the Golden West. You're eligible to joint. Now, can you tell us a little bit about the elementary school. What subjects you took? Maybe the names of some of your teachers. What your impressions were?

Madrid: I went to the elementary school right across the street. Actually, I started kindergarten at Monte Vista. My first teacher was Miss Oleson and second teacher was Miss Hardy [sp?] and they were both my kindergarten teachers. When I started kindergarten, I didn't know English. So I had to repeat kindergarten before they would let me in to Holy Redeemer, which was where I started my first grade.

Dodson: Excuse me, what language did you teach since you say you didn't know English?

Madrid: My first language was Spanish and that because my mother was born in Mexico and my father was born here. My mom only spoke Spanish in the home. And so when I started kindergarten, I had a hard time communicating and I really didn't adjust that first year. But once I started at Holy Redeemer, in Montrose. I had a pretty good time of it. By the time I graduated from the eighth grade, I was one of the top students. From there I went to Providence High School.

Dodson: And you didn't find the fact that you didn't know Spanish when you entered kindergarten any disadvantage in the future?

Madrid: Not really, actually it was advantage because all through elementary school, I was one of the oldest in the class. That gave me a little bit more leverage. I was a little bigger than everyone else. And I would say a little bit more mature. So you know I kinda make everyone else not look up to me but you know I was someone because I was older.

Dodson: That's rather interesting because I've read of students did enter elementary school a little older than they do

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now. They actually progressed faster. Did you find that you found it a little easier than some other students.

Madrid: I would seem at the beginning, I was at the same level. But by the time I finish on the eighth grade. By the time, it was the time for me to go to high school, I think I had it easier than others. You know.

Dodson: Now when you were the age to go to elementary school, do you remember the things you did for amusement?

Madrid: We would play kick ball at recess and at lunch time. By the time were in eighth grade, the cutey syndrome was over. You know what cootie were, girls and boys by the time they were in the third grade, they really don't like each other and so they play cootie, just run around and give it to each other.

Dodson: I have to admit that cootie is something new to me. Would you explain this?

Madrid: You know, cootie was like bugs and I don't know, it kind of like playing tag. If you touch a boy, you had cootie. And to get rid of it is touch a girl and she had the boy's cooties and you know it just keep going from there.

Dodson: I see, apparently this was common fifty years ago because none of the person I interview had mentioned it. But tell me what else did you do? You probably have some other customs that were a little difference from earlier period.

Madrid: Well, we played hand clapping games, I don't know if you ever heard if one called " Say say little playmate".

Dodson: No, I am afraid not. Could you discribe that for us?

Madrid: People would clap their hands. You would have a partner and there was a hand clapping rhythm and you know they would match your clap. And there were a little song that went along with it.

" Say say little playmate  
Come out and play with me  
And bring your darling friend  
Climb up my apple tree  
Slide down my rain barrel  
On to my cellar door  
And we will be jolly friends.  
For ever more, one, two, three, four

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shut the door."

Dodson: Ha...you have a good voice. We don't have usually..usually music in our interviews but we always glad to have some. Now, we already talk about two things that had never been mentioned before, can you think of some more?

Madrid: Well, by the time we were in eighth grade, I had two best friends. One was Anita Langward [sp?] and the other one was Ethel Linda Lisy [sp?]. And we were.. you know kind of be the tougher girls in our class. And what we do was we take the popular girls and we turned on the drinking fountain and then you know, like wet their hair and their faces and stuff. And just run around and grab people and wet them. We have a really good time. We would chase boys and wet them too...Ha.. We had a really good time.

Dodson: Did that ever happen to you? Did you ever get wet that way?

Madrid: No, no that never happened to me because my friends would always help me. Ha.... So we..I mean it was very disciplined. I went to a Catholic elementary school. I had a few nuns as teachers. I always thought I would enjoy going to a public school more. Now the more I think about it I don't think that I really miss too much. You know, I had to wear uniform all the time but then it a big deal. But now..now I don't...you know I don't think I missed too much.

Dodson: How do you feel about the uniform at the time? Did you like it or dislike it?

Madrid: I really disliked having a uniform because I always wanted.... I think that if you're wearing a uniform that makes you like everyone else. So looking like everyone else make me want to act different from many... everyone else.

Dodson: The funny thing about it is that's one reason that I would have like it... preferred it because I felt it would make the poorest girl look just as good as the richest one. And there wouldn't be any feeling between them. But do you think most girls felt that way or they didn't like the uniforms?

Madrid: No, I think.. I think that we competed in other ways maybe jewelry and earings and the kind of make-up that we

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wore or the way we wore our hair. Now that I think back once I got into high school... I went to Catholic high school also and we didn't have uniforms until my senior year. And then it was kind of nice because I didn't have to think about what I would have to wear. You know, I didn't have to make that decision. And so I could wake up a little bit later in the morning and still make it to school on time.

Dodson: Was the attitude that the uniforms were attractive or unattractive, do you remember your impression of them?

Madrid: Oh yes, they were extremely ugly. Ha....

Dodson: Ha.. here we have the difference between the male and female point of view. I always thought that the girls looked nice in them. Ha.. And you felt they didn't. Is that right?

Madrid: Well, when I was younger I was.. you know.. I was... I've always been you know chubby and so that uniform was really unattractive for me. You know if you were thinner and you know you could wear your skirt a little shorter and maybe then it would be cute. But on me, I just thought it was ugly. Ha....

Dodson: So you were glad to get into a school where it wasn't required then when you got into high school?

Madrid: Oh yes, I could wear things that were flattering you know for my body's shape. I didn't have to you know put up with something that made me look ugly.

Dodson: I see. Well now one thing I remembered. I was in a Catholic school for my first three years, first to third grade. One of the things I remember especially was the number of times we prayed during the day. How does this compare with what you did? Do you remember the religious side of this very well?

Madrid: Oh, yes. Having gone to Catholic school up to the tenth...twelfth grade. We really had religion pounded in to us. We get to school in the morning and said our morning prayer. At lunch time of course, we always said the Pledge of Allegiance. Once a week we have to go to church. We have.... and that was really awful because we have to wake up earlier. Classes for me in elementary school started at eight thirty. But on Tuesdays, which was church days, we have to be there by eight o'clock. So I really hated church day. And then we also had religion

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classes every day that would last about 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. Those weren't really too bad because it was more of a discussion type of thing. We wouldn't only learn about Jesus and the Bible but we also had a chance to talk about it. How we could relate Jesus and religion to our own lives. I do.. I really do remember that. I think that really effected the way I turned out too. I am not extremely religion but I do believe there is a God and I believe there are reasons for things to happen. You know.

Dodson: It maybe that my memory is faulty but I seem to remember that we did much more praying when I was in Catholic school than the way you described it. I seem to remember we have a long prayer at the beginning of class and another long prayer before we went out to recess and another prayer when we came back from recess. Another long prayer before lunch and so on. But you don't tell it that way so I am wondering if there are changes. That there is not that much praying in Catholic school as there was at one time. Or perhaps I went to the one that was a little more religious?

Madrid: No, I really do think it changed because .. like I said I had two teachers that were nuns. And from my understanding, maybe 20 years before I started elementary school, all the teachers were nuns. Now, we even have some teachers that where I when to a Catholic school, some teachers that weren't Catholic. You know, that were Protestant or maybe have no religion and that really have an effect on how much praying was done in the classroom. I mean the morning prayer was a mandatory one. And as far as praying at other time during the day, I think that was as the teacher's own discretion. You know.

Dodson: I see. The school that I went to had only nuns as teachers. So that might have made a difference as well as the passage of time. Can you think of other things that you did? In my outline that I gave you, I mentioned what kind of mischief if any, did you get into in your day. Do you remember anything like that? Or perhaps you were a very saintly person that never got into mischief?

Madrid: Well, I think one of the biggest thing that was very popular then was to have food fight at lunch time. And what we do was to get a gooest [sp?] banana and throw it at somebody you really didn't like. And they would throw something back at you. And your friends would get into it. Pretty soon the whole school was having a food in the lunch shelter. As far as other thing, you know thing

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that happened in my home or you know thing like that. I remember going up.. I lived in a community that really... I.. I think it make up of mostly of retired persons that don't have children. So here in my own neighborhood. We really didn't have any kids to run around or play with. So it was me and my brother. And most of our mischiefs were pulling each other's hair. Chasing each other around and throwing thing at each other.

Dodson: You definitely were a menace to the community.

Madrid: No, we didn't have a chance to get out of our yard. My mom had us fenced in. And she kept a pretty good eye on us. We were pretty well disciplined. Beside having to go to school, we also had weekly piano lesson. And we would go up to Sacred Heart for that. My brother would have his lesson and then I would have it. And then my mom would sit and talk to our piano teacher who was a nun. You know we would run around that high school campus which is very beautiful.. beautiful campus. And so as well having to come home and do our homework, we also have to practice the piano. And then we could watch our cartoon or go outside and play.

Dodson: Now in your teenage years, you went to which high school?

Madrid: I went to Providence High School in Burbank.

Dodson: Did you finish there?

Madrid: Yes, I did. I went there for four years and I think... you know those were probably the best years of my life, I think.

Dodson: Can you explain to us just why?

Madrid: Well, when I started there, I remember that I didn't really like the school. And you know, as time went on I .. you know I conformed myself and I decided that I was going to finish there because that was where I started. And that made life a lot easier. I made some really good friends there. And I remember going to a few parties that were just really great. I remember going to a few parties that this boy had in our class. And he lived over Elysian Park. And we have a lot of beer, you know people would get buzzed. There would be a disjockey and there would be dancing. And then everybody would go swimming in his pool with their clothes on. And jump off his roof. And we all eat fried eggs and corn flakes

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before we went home. Ha..

Dodson: Well, one thing that I read about in the papers is the present of narcotics when you were in high school. Did any of the parties that you went to, were you conscious of anything like that?

Madrid: Actually no. Although I was aware that there were some people that did narcotics. It was never.. I was.. I had never been offered any in high school or at any parties. You know now as people did them, I think that they did them in private, in the bathroom or outside. But I mean, our main thing was really drinking beer you know. A few times, we would have Tequila [sp?] you know and seven up but never ..I mean.. there were never any marijuana or cocaine or anything, at least in view where I could see. Although I knew it was around somewhere.

Dodson: Of course, this difference greatly from the earliest period where none of the early people whom I had interviewed ever heard of narcotics used among the students or didn't know of anybody who used them or anything like that. Did you feel then that you knew people who might have used them or something like that? That you say they were around although you, yourself didn't come in contact with them.

Madrid: Oh yes, I mean there are always rumors in high school, you know. And I am sure that there were some people doing narcotics in high school, maybe even selling it. But were rumors, people talked. You know..." so and so told me this and so and so told me that" and he heard it from someone else from somewhere else, you know. But not even now that I am in college have I ever seen narcotics or been offered them although I know there're somewhere on the campus.

Dodson: Sometime it is interesting also to find out the names of some of your classmates. Some of these people become very prominent later and it is interesting to know what they were like in high school that sort of thing. Can you remember the names of some of your high school friends?

Madrid: Sure, it wasn't too long ago. I just graduated in 1987.

Dodson: Yes, that is a little different from people who graduated in 1927.

Madrid: Right, well. Of course the person that I am always going

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Madrid: to remember the most is my best friend. We started going to school together in the second grade and we still best friends. And her name is Anita Lanquar [sp?]. I mention her before and we have some really great times together. Almost anything I've done, she's done, too.

Dodson: Now, tell me when you have great times what do you do then on these great times? What constitutes great time at the present time?

Madrid: Oh, well. Anita and I are...are night club goers, you know. And so every Friday and Saturday night, we usually go out dancing. We dress up and fix our hair and you know, "what are you going to wear?" "Oh, I don't know, what are you going to wear?", you know. And we go out and I think that you know one part of our big excitement is oh let's see who get to ask to dance the more. And who gets the cutest guys. You know.. you know.. one if... I think one of our biggest times you know time that we've fun is going cruising. I don't know if you familiar with that term.

Dodson: I've heard the word, but could you put on the record just what cruising consists of?

Madrid: Well, there are a few places where people go cruising. When I was about sixteen years old, you know it was around Elysian Park. And what people do is that they go in their cars and they are usually nice cars and they fix themselves up and they just go driving up and down some streets that have lots of traffic and you go really slow and usually the guys who park on the side of the road and they called out girls. You know, the girls would wave back and maybe the girls would pull over and they will stop and they would talk to each other. Just another way of flirting and meeting people and it's free. Ha....

Dodson: Well, at last, it's certainly significant. Would you say it primary for the purpose of meeting people?

Madrid: Oh yes.. oh yes, well it's also a way to get together with your friends because I know a lot of people that are friends and they're all, you know meet at a place. And like I said, It's free. If you were in a tight money situation, that probably the best thing that you can do. Nowadays going to a night club cost about 10 dollars just to get in. And that didn't even include anything. You know, when once you get in and I cost 4 dollars to buy a drink, you know, if you want a peanut kolnada [sp?] you better expect to pay 6 dollars. You know, so it can get pretty expensive. And that is just another way to offset the cost.

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Dodson: Now, sometime I read in the paper that merchants don't like to have their establishment on streets where there's cruising. Was there disorder that part of the cruising that might make the merchants turn against it?

Madrid: Oh, yes, I think once the place become establish as a cruising spots, then you get people coming from all over. I mean as far as San Diego... people as far as San Diego coming to Hollywood. And then what you get the infiltration of gangs and then the police have to break it up and sometime fights break out. You know, sometime it can get to be a pretty messy situation. There's a lot of drinking that go on. I am sure that you know there's drugs. They find drugs in those areas and so. People start getting crazy and they destroy property and really ruin it for everybody else who just want to have a good time.

Dodson: So you can see the merchants could have some justification for being opposed to it.

Madrid: Oh, definitely, definitely. It specially in an area like Hollywood where people go cruising on Hollywood Blvd. I mean that's an area that already crowded and then to have all this traffic and you know, there is a lot of retail stores in that area. Now especially I wouldn't go cruising there just because too many gangs members. You even got Cripps and Bloods and you know all other type of gangs going there. And they just go to start trouble. You know.

Dodson: Now, you mention gangs, of course that again is a more recent development. Did you come in contact with people who were in gangs? Were there any gangs represented in the school you have been in that you know off?

Madrid: No, there was never anyone in my high school that was involved in gang, although, nowadays it's kind of cool to belong to a gang which I think is very stupid. I just think those people are ruining their lives but there were a lot of them want-to-bes in high school. I did...I have come in contact with gang members. That's by going to night clubs. There are few gang members that go because that's really where you meet, you know, other guys and other girls. As far as ever getting into trouble with any... you know having any problems with gangs. No, you know, I never have any problems with them.

Dodson: So, It wasn't a problem then that you might meet a few gang members in places that you when to. You didn't feel that you were threatened by their present?

Madrid: No, no because I never did anything that was threatened

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them, you know. I . . .I... one of the main problems with gangs and getting involved with them is anything you say or do can be taken in a wrong way. I mean if you give a gang member you know like a finger they'll, I mean, they will be after you, you know, right away. You know, it's not only one person but since they belong to the gang, it would be a whole gang which could be up to 50, you know 50 guys. And they really don't bother girls. It's more of a male macho man kind of thing.

Dodson: I see. Did you have any particular vocational aim when you were in high school. What did you think you might do and have you done anything about that particular things since or have you change your aims with the passage of time?

Madrid: I think, I always thought about doing something that related to people, you know as far as.. When I was in high school I had a job at a mall and I worked in a clothing store and I got to be one of the management person there. And I really loved to have contact with the public. Also my father's job is really influence what I like to do. He is a community relation form. The Los Angeles police department. And he comes in to contact with alot of political figures, you know as well as their families. And he gets to go to a lot of function and nice restaurants. And you know it's a really type of.. a real social type of jobs. And I think that're something I like to dealt so I decided really in high school that I'd like to get into government because that's really a net working you know type of field. I worked it so my grades were good enough and I got into Pomona College in Claremont. And now I am a government major and I really think once I get out, I like to do some type of service job, maybe you know. I like to be an ambassador or consul or something I think that I want to go to an foreign country and live for a few years. I don't ever think that I could be away from my, you know, extended family for more than ten years. I think that California will always be my place.

Dodson: then you've been rather consistent. The objectives you formed in high school are still with you in college?

Madrid: Oh, yes. Although I have.. I changed my mind a lot of times. I came in thinking I wanted to be a government major. Then I thought I wanted to be a history major. Then I thought I wanted to be a public relations major. Now I've just gone back to government because I really can't find anything else that I am as good at, you know.

Dodson: What phase of government are you majoring in such as

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modern European governments or American governments or anything like that?

Madrid: I don't really..I don't really.. I don't think that we are that specific.

Dodson: It isn't cut down as it might be in graduate school to a specific type of government then.

Madrid: No, no. It's not that cut down. I mean we have like public affairs and international government like that. But as far as European government or American government, no.

Dodson: I see. What sort of religious life do you have at the present time?

Madrid: Well, coming from Mexico, my mom is very Catholic. And we go to church every Sunday and we.. when someone dies in our family, we have a Rosary and then there is a funeral and then for nine days it's called a novena. For nine days, we pray a Rosary every night, you know from the day that there is a funeral. And well, as far as my family concerned, I think that we are very religion but first.. I am sorry religious but personally, like I said before, I believe in God and in Jesus. But I don't really, I believe the way that I wanted to be treated is how I should treat someone else. But as far as praying and you know following all the rules of the church, I guest I am not that religious.

Dodson: I've seen an expression used by some members of the Priesthood of Consumer Catholics. Maybe those who chose which doctrine of the church to believe in. Would you characterize yourself and your friends in that kind of category or not?

Madrid: Oh yes, I am totally think that I am is a Cosumer Catholic. I never heard that term before but I kind of think that I followed what ever convenient for me, you know at the time. Going to church is really one thing that sometime it isn't convenient but I still go. I still make the time. As far as the important of going, you know, I really do it because you know my mom wants me to go. I think nowadays that there aren't many priests that motivated the congregation enough. I don't think.. I am not say that it is a waste of time. But there are.. If I could to to a certain priest all the time that I know would move me, I would go. You know, that would be by choice. But sometime you don't have the same priest all the time. Sometime you feel he's just reading you know, or he's just not prepared to say the Mass. And I

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don't... I mean I just sit there. I don't enjoy it.

Dodson: Now, of course we see a great deal and read a great deal about the church's attitude on abortion. How do you and your friends feel about that, would you say?

Madrid: Ah, having been educated in this time where woman.. I think woman are coming out as far as freedom is concern and the rights of a woman. I think that we are having a lot of difficulties just because we caught in a in between.

Dodson: Do you have anything to add on that?

Madrid: I don't think so. But I think our world were rule by man for a long time and if you can't take the use of the other sex, you can't consider what to be a woman. You know, our whole society structure on a man view. And not until woman are in power and you know, have a chance to make different legislation or we're going to make a change in government or in the view of the church.

Dodson: Now, another subject that the church in the past had a very strong attitude on was the subject of divorce. Do you believe that most Catholics today favor divorce or think that it should be permissible or shouldn't?

Madrid: Oh, that's really hard to say. I really don't know the view of Catholics on divorce because I am not old enough to be married and I don't... I don't really know that many people that have been divorced. Most of my family have been married once and have stayed in their marriage. But I don't think, I think it's too easy to get a divorce nowadays. People don't work to make their relationship you know last. I kind of think if she snore to low, just get a divorce. You know, that's not a right kind of attitude. I really think a lot divorce that happened nowadays should be happening. If they tried to weather out the storm, you know, they could have a lasting married.

Dodson: Your idea is then more in line with those of the church, officially than with some other people?

Madrid: Yes, well I would think so. Although, I think there are cases in which divorce is appropriate. I think that when someone goes through their life, maybe 10 or 20 years from now, the person that you marry isn't the person you want to live the rest of your life with. You know, in those cases I would think that divorce is appropriate.

Dodson: I think in the past if I remember correctly, adultery

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is the only possible reason for divorces. Would you feel that the church went too far on that in making that perhaps the only legitimate call for the divorce.

Madrid: Ah, yes. I mean.. although I think adultery is a good you know a good ground for a divorce. I think that there are other reasons you know, that divorce... in which divorce would be appropriate such as if you marry someone who latter becomes an alcoholic or a drug addict and they don't want to help themselves. I kind of feel why should you let your life be ruined and the life of your children if somebody doesn't want to right their life and follow the right path. You know, I definitely think that should be grounds for divorce.

Dodson: Since we're taking about church attitudes. Another thing that has been important to the church in the past has been the question of public support for parochial schools. Do you believe that there should be public support for parochial schools or just for the public schools?

Madrid: Ah, having gone to parochial school all my life, I kind of think that I am a little bit you know bias. But I think the public shouldn't have to support parochial school. I think that ... that's the choice of the parent, but then I think that parents who send their kid to parochial school aren't using the public system and then they should receive some sort of a tax break, you know. If we weren't taking advantage of the public school, then why should we pay the full amount for other people's children to go to public school, you know.

Dodson: Well, now to change the subject a little bit, what do think of clothing styles and fashions at the present time as oppose to the past?

Madrid: Ah, really I don't think the clothing styles have changed that much. I remember being six years old and wearing bell bottom. And I really hated those. You know, and I hope they never come in style again. Although we are getting a form of bell bottom now I would never wear it. It's not flattering for me but

Dodson: I have to admit, I wonder If you would explain what a bell bottom is? I am not quite sure.

Madrid: Well, the kind of bell bottom that I wear when I was six years old. You know, the pants usually you know jeans. Although they did have them in polyester and other type of material. They were tied down on the knee and from there on they flared out. And I guess according to how

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hip you were that's how much your pants flaired. But I remember tripping on them a lot of times. Nowadays we don't have that type of bell bottom but we do have you know a straight leg that's very wide. You know, all the way from the top to the bottom. It's not tied down to the knee and then flairs out. There really isn't a flair. It's just wide all the way down. I remember mini skirts being in and long skirts came in and now we're back to mini skirts. Although they're using different kinds of materials. Polyester isn't used. You know some other materials and colors that were used before aren't used any more. One of the big things is wearing like a Spanish.....[?] type of mini skirt that is really form-fitting and tight and short. I don't know.

Dodson: How do you personally feel? Do you like the present day fashion? or would you preferred that they would be more like some past time?

Madrid: Well, I think I like the present day fashions just because it's more flattering for me. Bell bottoms and flaired out skirts aren't fattering for me. Neither are high blouses and long sleeves shirts. Ha.. so I like the present day fashions, you know.

Dodson: You know, one of the problems that I have over the museum, since we have the dress collection, I've given some thought that should I put in something of modern dresses. And then I think to myself what in the world would I put in that's really typical. If I go by our college students, I would put in a pair of blue jeans but somehow, I can't get excited about those. And I can imagine if blue jeans were worn 50 years from now, they can't be very different from the kind worn now. What would you suggest that I put in?

Madrid: I mean that's a hard question because there are so many variations on style. Styles have to do with one's personality. You go from wardrobe to wardrobe and the person may have the same type of pieces but the way they wear that them, you know, is different. I... It's really hard to say, you know.

Dodson: No wonder I gave up. Ha...

Madrid: I think I probably would of too. Although, you know if you're looking for something interesting.. although I don't think it's very typical. You know, a few years back when the punk rock sence were in, I think it would be neat to put a few picture of how they're dress. Because although the articals of clothings you know are common what they do to them after they buy them is just

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out of this world. I mean as far as the holes and the dog chain that they put on now. You know the way they cut their hair and dye it. I think that would be an intered to someone later on.

Dodson: You know the only fashion that I've seen I think it's exceptional ugly is the flafer style of the 20th. Are you familiar with that? what it look like?

Madrid: Yes, I am.

Dodson: How do you feel about that?

Madrid: I really don't think it's that ugly. Although I hope we talk about the same thing. It is traight on the top like a tang kind of cut and then the bottom is flair out and very long. I think the woman has to have certain type of body to wear that. She has to be tall and thin, you know. I don't see short and chubby woman could really dress like that. They have to take out a few feets on their hamp. Ha...

Dodson: I see, so you sort of relieve that's not a standard fashion nowadays.

Madrid: Oh yes, short and tight..Ha...is really my... the way I look the best.

Dodson: I think everyone should has a right to look it best. But to me, no one will look very good in those particular fashions. At least example we have in the museum do nothing for me when I look at them. Can you think of anything else in the line of style, fashion or fats that related to clothing that you might mention?

Madrid: No, not really. I can't think of anything else right now.

Dodson: Can you think of anything that teenagers do for amusement today that you think would not have been typical say about half of the century ago?

Madrid: Well, we have been talking about it before but curusing is defitely something that I don't think you know was typical.

Dodson: Now, I have to admite that until a fairly short time ago. I never heard the word disco. Would that be a different in your oppion?

Madrid: I don't know you know. I have a lot of conversation with my grandmother... I talk to my grand mother, and

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she...actually they weren't call disco but they were night club. And she told me that she gone to lots of night club. She used to go when she was about sixteen. Which I think would probably in the thirty to ... places where people would dance together. As far as the way that people dance, I think that change a lot. I don't think in the thirty or in the forty even in the fifty you know, it was unheard to dance a lone or go with girls..

Dodson: I have to admit when I've seen pictures of dancing at disco, to me it is a little hard for me to characterize that as dancing. Ha.....

Madrid: I have been always grown up with kink of dancing, so to me it's not really strange. Although few years ago, we have break dancing and something called popping

Dodson: What does that mean by the way?

Madrid: Popping is someone need to be almost double jointed really to do it. You know, thy do a lot of movement with their body that are really automatic. I don't know, It's hard to explain. It's more of the visual thing. I don't know, sometime to me like they're going in to epileptic attack, or something ha....

Dodson: I am afraid I should regress that is very amusing but every do it own taste.

Madrid: Well, I was neat to watch because if something really different and not every body can do. Although it's not really in any more, you know. Now, there is lots of difference ways to dance like the "robocop" and another one call "the roger rabid", you know the "smuff" you know difference kind of move but I think that's typical of any era I mean there is the twist, you know

Dodson: I have to tell you I talk to one fellow once who told me it's just for a joke in disco, he began to jump up and down and holding his hands above his head. And he said before long everybody on the floor were doing that. Would you say that's indicate a certain lack of discipline or any idea what constitute idea that everybody imitating this foolishness?

Madrid: I totally think that's is something that could happened. you know, everybody is a follower now. If somebody starts to do something weird and everybody want to do something that weird. Ha..

Dodson: When you look at pictures or movies, older style dancing

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which are must of seem very dignify compare to a disco. How do you feel? that one is inferior to another or well, just how do you feel about it?

Madrid: I... I mean I definitely think that there was a lot of... a lot more control you know before. As far as one being superior than the other, not really. I think that nowadays we have more options than there were before. You can go to disco and you don't need to have someone, you know ask you to dance. You can dance with your girl friend if you want. Just because you are not.. you don't have to hold each other.

Dodson: Of course, I have to admit that is not as much fun but then everybody chose it own taste.

Madrid: Well, I don't think it that much fun either. But you know there is more freedom in that you don't need to have a man ask you to dance. You can still dance by yourself. Now a big thing is to have mirrors in disco tech where people will dance with themselves. You know, they just look in the mirror and they just dance. And I know a lot of people who spend 10 dollars to get into a night club and they just dance with themselves all night.

Dodson: I have to admit it's a little hard for me to envisionize this and to imagine that it's fun. So I am going to take your word for it. Is this lots of fun?

Madrid: I never do that. Ha... and I think for myself it wouldn't be fun. I don't know why those people do that. Maybe they just go to practice and to see what they look like, you know.

Dodson: Would you feel it is an advantage now that you don't have to have a boy ask you to go to a dance. You just go to the disco yourself. Do you prefer it that way?

Madrid: Oh, yes, yes. I mean ..every weekend I go out with my girl friend. I really don't... I go out on date once in a while if I meet someone that I like. But in today's age, It's kind of hard... It hard to go out a date with someone because you don't really know what they like, you know with all of the things that's happening now. It better to go and meet someone wherever you're going and to have your own transportation. Because there is a lot of people that are not trustworthy. And you can never be sure about what a person is like. I think that before with the measure of control that there was, you know it was a lot easier to tell the kind of person that you are going out with.

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Dodson: You would feel then that actually this has result in a safer situation from a girl point of view than the old fashion way of always waiting until the boy ask you?

Madrid: Oh, yes, having my own car, I am able to go where I want. If you don't like what is happening in a certain situation, I have a way to get home. I don't have to rely on anyone else you know, to take me. And I am never caught somewhere I don't want to be.

Dodson: This raises another interesting point. You say you have your own transportation to come home. Do you feel safe on the street nowadays when driving your car at night?

Madrid: Ah, I get a little antsy when I get to a red light. You know, and I am all by myself. I always make sure that my windows are rolled up and that the doors are locked, and I am aware of what's going on around me. I can tell you this, if I was at a red light and someone starts coming toward my car and looked like they might want to get in. I would take off, you know. I am always afraid that I am going to break down somewhere where it's dark and I have no way of getting anywhere. You know, there are some horror stories of things that happen to women who are alone. But I'm usually not alone in the evening. You know, like I say, I go out with my girl friend. The only time that I am alone is from her house to my house which is about a mile and half. And I am not really too scared about driving that distance.

Dodson: Now, I would say that the crime situation is one of the drastic differences between the older I have interviewed and someone like yourself today. They seem to have very little fear of things happening. And of course now it seems pretty much the other way around and you've given us a good picture of your own feelings which I imagine are typical of those of other girls, are they not?

Madrid: Oh, yes. They are very typical. You even have to be afraid of where you park your car. About a month ago, I almost had my radio stolen and that radio wasn't even worth five dollars, you know. People committed vandalism and all sorts of crimes just .. you know for kicks. They broke my window. And there wasn't any reason to they tried to take out my stereo and broke my dash board. You know, If... like I said, you're even afraid of where you leave your car. You know, you don't even have to have a nice car. You know to be afraid.

Dodson: It has been my experience as a counselor that we were told that a parking lot is one of the most dangerous places to be in. Is that your feeling?

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Madrid: Oh yes. Being on a college campus is especially scary because you know, people know that there are going to be girls are arriving late, you know, and parking their car in parking lot. I know once instance where a woman parked her car and there was a man in the parking lot. And he came and he assaulted her with the knife and he got her keys and he took off in her car. You know, and that was a pretty mile case. In most instances they would of rape her and then took off in her car. You know, so she was pretty lucky.

Dodson: You never felt that you were any safer than necessary on a college campus than else where, is that right?

Madrid: Oh, actually I am more afraid on a college campus. Just because like I said that people know that there are woman there who are going to be alone. The library is open to midnight and sometimes until one o'clock. When you have to study and you have to go to the library. You know, it's pretty scary having to walk home. And we have an escort service but there are some woman who are dumb enough not to use it.

Dodson: I understand some other universities have an escort service. I think I read that SC have something like that.

Madrid: I think that they do and that's because the area in which they are located is especially crime ridden. You walk two blocks away from campus and you're in a ghetto. You know, you have to be careful. My friend started to go to UCLA about two years ago and she said during the first week there were three rapes on campus. And that is something that we all have to be aware of that. I don't know what is the statistics is now. But one of three women will get raped.

Dodson: Yes, I read that too. And that is the feeling. It is almost impossible to believe that's right. But that is what had been in the newspapers. Well that of course is quite a bit of difference from the situation that exited a half of a century ago. We've had other tapes and interviews I have. We have very little comments about that. It just wasn't part of their lives. They were so afraid that this would happen. Now I think we touch on another thing that we have here. How you chose your occupation right now you are unoccupied. But you told me that you were influence by your father's position in choosing a career in life. Do you have any particular memories of nature disasters in this area such as earthquakes, floods or fires or anything that effected you personally?

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Madrid: Not really, I do remember this, I was about six or maybe even seven years old and we have some really bad rain storms one winter. You know there were all sort of mud slides and pictures of people's homes 're getting bombarding with mud and some flash floods up here. But never anything that came into our home. Nothing ever happened here. I do remember the earthquake we have last October but I was in Clairmont College at the time. That you know, I was a little scared because I was asleep. Other than that I don't think that there have been any nature disasters that I remember.

Dodson: No, I don't think there have been any during your life time. Of course the worse one that we feel up here on the way of earthquake was the Sylmar Quake in 18.. 1971. But other than that, I don't think in recent year anything is especially happen up here that we weren't nearly effected as some other areas even by that. And I imagine that while older people have been very much effected by economic cycles. That again isn't anything that has effected you in any way? Of course you didn't experience the Great Depression. People who did have a very keen memory of it. I can assure you we never have anything like that since, and I certainly hope we haven't. Do you have any particular recollections of World War II?

Madrid: Ah, Only what my family had told me about what happened during the war. My father told me that when he was about seven years old, he remembers the bombing of Pearl Harbor. And the neighborhood of where he lived.. he lived very near here.. the place called Tooner Ville [sp?] in the area of Glendale. He said that he remembered that the whole neighborhood was silent with the realization that the United State is going to war. And later he remembers his family members you know doing drills in the living room with rifles and practicing formation and really people having the idea that you know neat formations, we 're going to win the war, ha.. other than that I know we had some family that die in the world. But something that happened a while ago.

Dodson: Yes, that was a little before your day. So I wonder if you have any family traditions about it one way or the other. Now to come to one that would have some more immediate problems with you. Have you come across any racial or minority problems in the Valley that have come to your attention?

Madrid: As far as any fights and riots or anything like that happening in the Valley, no. But I know there is a lot of resentment in the area. You know, we have a lot of

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Armenians moving in, lots of Orientals moving in, and I noticed in the past year, the number of homes that are for sell in this area had drastically gone up. I don't know if that you know the influx of the Armenians and Orientals had anything to do with it. But I think a lot of people feel that the environment is changing. Being a minority myself, I really don't feel that Armenians or Orientals moving in to the neighborhood is really going to effect me. But I think for the white majority, I think that they feel, you know, a little bit worried and really ....I really don't know. I have noticed that the number of minority business owners have gone up in this area, you know.

Dodson: Now you said one thing that interested me. You said "being a member of the minority myself". Do you really consider yourself a member of the minority?

Madrid: Well, Hispanics in Los Angeles are really the majority now. But....

Dodson: Yes, I believe I read in the public schools there are more persons of Spanish decent, Spanish or Latin decent than any other one group.

Madrid: Oh, yes, yes. But we still call minority, you know.

Dodson: Of course, women have been called minority too. In spite of that there are more woman than there are man.

Madrid: Uh ha. I think if we think in practical term it's wrong for me to say that I am a minority because I am part of a majority. But in this area, I think the majority still is you know Anglo-Saxon . I could be wrong, but that's what I see.

Dodson: Do you feel if the majority is Anglo-Saxon and they are prejudice against anybody who is not Anglo-Saxon?

Madrid: Ah, It's hard to say because you know when I was growing up, there weren't that many Hispanics in this area. And I think that as long as Anglo-Saxon persons don't feel that you know, their areas is going to be taken over. There isn't really any hostility toward the minority. But when more, you know, keep moving in, then I think ideas change and they start feeling that you know they are going to take over pretty soon. And this place is going to hell like that. I don't know. That could be just come the people I come in contact with. I know a few Anglo-Saxon in persons that are prejudice. And because we are friend, they don't realize what they are saying offends me or you know, would be offensive to

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someone else.

Dodson: Don't you feel that you are a part of the mainstream of American life just as much American as I am? My ancestors came over in the 18th century.

Madrid: I don't know. I think there are a lot of cultural differences. I mean as far as the general mainstream goes, yes. But I think that I am from two worlds. Like I said, my mother from Mexico and all of her family is here and I definitely think our culture is different.

Dodson: Now we were talking about minority situations and your impression of them. Do you have anything to add to what you said a minute ago?

madrid: Oh, I think I was talking about cultural differences. You know as I was saying the family structure is much different.

Dodson: Would you explain what you mean by that and what're the differences as you see it?

Madrid: Well, this is strictly opinion but I really Hispanic families are a lot closer than Anglo families. The way ... that we... I think that we treat our elderly is a lot different. Well, to us the older the person is the more respect they deserve. You know, that is the way that we act. In Spanish there are two different ways of speaking to a person. There is a formal way and the every day way. And when you speak to an elderly person, you always speak to them in a formal manner. I know my grandfather he died when he .. I think he was 87. And up to the day he die, he was a the patriarch of our family. What he said went all the time you know. And no one ever contradicted his words, you know. I think that has a lot of power you know, to grow up in a family like that. Being Hispanic I think we grow up with the idea that the man is the dominant one in the family. And what the man decides is right for the family is what going to happen. That is a little hard for somebody growing up.

Dodson: It hard for some of my Hispanic friends to accept by the way, too when they tell me about the privileges that their brothers have that they don't have.

Madrid: Oh, It definitely true. Even in my own family, I didn't get to go on my first date until I am about 15. And my first date I went to a Akin Conjada [sp?] which is a 15 birthday party. In.. for Hispanic we celebrate 15 birthday party... the female 15 birthday instead of 16 birthday for Anglo. And well my date came picked me up

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at 8 o'clock and I have to take my little brother and I have to be home by 11 o'clock. I think my brother's first date was when he was about 12 or 13. My dad gave him the money to go and take a girl to the movie. And he didn't have to take his big sister along. Ha... and that is a little tough having to dealt with rules that weren't applicable to both sexes. Even now, my bother can come home... I am 20 and my brother is 19. He can come home at 4 o'clock in the morning and not that much is said. But when I come home, everybody awake. Ha...

Dodson: Do you resent it at all or you just accepted it as the proper ways of doing thing?

Madrid: Oh, when I was... you know, up until, between 16 and I think 18 I really rebelled. I was always complaining. There was never a day that I didn't complain. But I now kind of think, what am I going to complain for. Things aren't going to change here but maybe I can change them in the next generation. You know, people are set in their way and they're not going to change.

Dodson: I have one Aquardo friend at age 23 she went back to visit her parents. She wasn't allow to have the key to the house. She came home, she has to get them up to get into the door. would you say that is a little extreme or typical?

Madrid: Oh I think that is drastic, I have my own key. And If I don't have, I would make a copy of my parent. Ha..

Dodson: You cheat a little bit necessary, is that right?

Madrid: Oh yes. I wouldn't be able to get along.

Dodson: Would you say then is her experience in Aquardo would not be typical of girls in this country who are Hispanic decent?

Madrid: Oh, no, no. I deffinitely that growing up in Hispanic country is a lot different than gowing up in the United State. Although our parents are here.. are stricker I think Anglo parents are. They are not as strick as parents in Hispanic country. Not at all. Ah ah.

Dodson: I have one little friend at the college who parents are form a little villige in Mexico. So when here boy friend wanted to pick her up and take her to school and she had to pretend that she walking to the bus. And she walk to

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or three blocks from the house to get him. When he bring her home from school, he let her out a block or so from home and she walk the rest of the way. Would you say that is typical or not?

Madrid: Oh, I have a lot of cousins who let their boy friend on the corner. I think that is a little typical. Especially if your parents came from a small town in Mexico or any Latin country. I think yes. That's typical.

Dodson: Would that cause the Latin girls to resented or be jealous of the relative free of the Anglo girl in your opinion?

Madrid: Ah, yes. I remember growing up and I was always saying. You know, " But, Heather doesn't.. you know Heather gets to go or Heather does this and Heather does that. Well Heather's parents was Anglo, you know. And my parent said that " I don't care what Heather does. You are mind daughter and do what I say when I say and how I say." Ha...

Dodson: Now, I have a question here about whether there is any generation gap in your family? Would you say that's the generation gap?

Madrid: Oh yes, I mean, I am always telling my mom " Mom, we are not in Mexico." You know, I think that it is a cultural gap more than a generation gap. I think if my mother grew up in the United States, she'd be a lot different than what she is now. You know... you know, I definitely think that has something to do with culture.

Dodson: Would you say that she attempts then to live in the United states according the same cultural background she would have had in Mexico, that she hasn't changed or do you feel there have been changes?

madrid: Oh, there have been changes, you know, really big changes. Like I said, I think she is a lot different than she would have been if she had stayed in Mexico. But I think there is something that you can't change. Ideas that you've grown up with from the beginning of your life are really hard to change. Especially, attitudes that you have concerning the sexes. I know my mon told me that she did everything for my father, everything, now that she'd seen other people live their lives. How marriages can be more equal here. She doesn't do everything. You know, a lot of change but there are somethings that do not change.

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Dodson: Now, some of my friends just came from Ecuador, they're astonished when they occasionally see me in the kitchen doing some cooking. That just doesn't happen in their families. Would you say your family is as strict as that?

Madrid: No, no. My father was a bachelor until he was 30 so he knows how to cook. And he will get up in the morning and cooks for himself. But, you know, say like my cousins, my father was born here but my cousin's father came from Mexico. And he doesn't lift a finger in the kitchen because that's not macho, you know, that's not .. that isn't how he grew up, you know.

Dodson: Jackline of course the mother of little Fenanda that you know. But her sister Terical comes up and visits my house, too. And Terical was absolutely astonished when she first got here to see me occasionally in the kitchen. I fix little Fenanda breakfast. So I was wondering if that was typical of all Latin society. That would be an astonishing thing to see a man working like that... doing that sort of thing. I don't think that shouldn't be called work exactly. Ha..

Madrid: Ah, I don't think if they've in the United State, I don't think that.. that's shocking but in a Latin-American country, definitely. The man isn't supposed to be in the kitchen.

Dodson: What happens in regard to a market? Here there are many man pushing their market baskets and getting foods. Would this be permissible in a Latin society?

Madrid: Ah, really the place that I've gone to, unless you were talking about a border town like Tijuana or Ensenada, we really don't have markets and I mean not supper markets the way we think of them. They have an area that has you know foods for sale you know in the open market and that's what their markets are. And I've been to Peru and I've been to the market there and I've seen man selling things but woman who really do the shopping.

Dodson: You see men selling but do you see many men buying? You said the women do most of the choosing.

Madrid: Oh, yes. I think that women do most of it, most of the buying. Unless the man lives alone and he had no one to buy for him then he has to go out and buy his own food.

Dodson: Of course, you haven't live 50 years in the Valley, but in the time that you have live, have there been any social changes in any way, social customs or fades and

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fashion or anything at all that you can think off in you own life time that represent changes?

Madrid: Ah, I think I've really spoken about all the changes that I can see, although I have noticed that we are getting a lot more apartments, condominiums here. I think that's really going to change the face of our town, of our Valley. I think that people have.. because there weren't that many people, people have an opportunity to know most of their neighbors and to know who was living down the block. I can't tell you who else live on this block, you know. I can tell who is my neighbors are but I don't know them, you know. As far as who lives next door to mine to my next door neighbor, I don't know. You know, I think that's changing and those things they have different effects. I think the crime rate is going to go up because you don't care about, who else is on your block. You know, It doesn't matter if there is a moving truck and they're taking all their funitures because you don't even know whether they're moving or not.

Dodson: Yes, we 've seen a case in the paper where burglars would come in the day when nobody was home and actually move out television sets. The neighbors aparrently didn't think anything was wrong.

Madrid: Yah, that's because our system of getting to know each other. Life is so busy here, you know. You go to work and you come home and you are too tired to associate with anybody else. You know, we're definitelly going to see some big changes pretty soon.

Dodson: Well, we pretty exhausted the things I have in my outline to mention. Can you think of something that we haven't brought up at all that you think it's interesting or the future might be interested in that you like to tell us about?

Madrid: Ah, we've spoken about so many things that I really don't know how we started our conversation. Ha.. I think I would like to mention but I don't anybody else had mentioned this but I have noticed within the past ten years we have a drastic increase of polution. As far as...

Dodson: I don't think anyone else had mention that when I think about it. So we be glad to have you say what you think.

Madrid: With the independent of our age, everybody want to have their own cars, everyone want to get around where they want to get around. You know, if you drive on the freeway and you see the solidary generation, you know.

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Everybody's driving alone, I drive alone. I don't know what I would do without my car now. I haven't have the car that long but now that I have one, I don't think that I could go without one you know. That is the big contributor to our pollution. Ah, you walk out, sometime you see the sky is gray. Sometime you see the sky is gray, you can't see the mountains and you're right next to them. It's something that really sad you know. I think that a lot of the ill.. sicknesses that we have now, can be contributed to the pollution. Especially cancer. I think the rising rate of the people with cancer have a lot to do with the rate of pollution that we have. I think that our government have to do a lot more as far as researching how to decrease our pollution. Even though we haven't have some measure in government you know the clean air act and thing like that. There haven't been any move as far as technology go to really try drastically reduced it. We have increase gas mileage and those type of thing that there haven't any move to really try to clean up the pollution that we have all ready.

Dodson: That bring up another interested point. Do you ever give any thought to what our society might be like for your children. We read about the destruction of the ozone layer for instance and the effect it will have on the earth. Do you ever think about that? Whether it will last your time but not the next generation?

Madrid: Oh, I definitely think about that all the time you know. One of the thing that I am really concern about is the cutting down of the rain forest in South America. You know, everyday it just thousand of trees that they chop down and that is one of the biggest producer of our oxygen and I just think, what are we doing? What are we doing to our world?

Dodson: I think the rest of the world is alarmed that the idea of the brazilian Rain Forest being chop down.

Madrid: Yes, I try to do thing on the individual level but you talk to people about the concern and they really don't realize how important it is or how you know.. what is happening? I myself I conserve paper. You know, I do my best to recycle it. But a lot of people have the idea you know like voting, what is one person going to do. What one vote is going to do, you know. Well, might be one lead to two and from there you just keep going and not until we get some government action, I think it's really going to happen. we have to think about our next generation otherwise there might not be one.

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Dodson: That right, and that was the tenor of my question. I've been amaze that reading just the raising of the average of the temperature one or two degree in certain places will have drastic effect on the environment. which is hard to believe but that is what I actually read. Can you think of anything else that we haven't brought up that you would like to mention?

Madrid: No, I can't think of anything else. I think I said everything I can say. Ha..

Dodson: Well, I appreciate very much your corporation and we will be delighted to put this in the archives of our college for the future. Thank you very much for the....

Madrid: Thank you.

Dodson: You have been listening to an interview with Miss. Marina Madrid on 2621 Orange Ave. La Crescenta CA. 91214. Tell, 818-249-2441. The interview took place on August, 1989. It was conducted by Dr. James L. Dodson, curator of the Los Angeles Valley College Historical Museum.